

is dark and discouraging, there are still hopeful signs that the final day is drawing near.

REFUGEES AND COLORED SETTLEMENTS.

The Refugees who have crossed into Canada, have generally arrived in a state of great destitution. In most cases they had been compelled to forsake all their property or to sell it off for a mere trifle, and to fly from their inhuman pursuers. It is supposed that between five and six thousand have entered Canada during the last two years. In general they have proved themselves quiet, industrious and worthy citizens,* and have shown a laudable desire to find employment at once. They mostly prefer agricultural labours, and look forward to possessing farms of their own with much earnestness. The Committee have all along sought their moral and intellectual as well as physical welfare. For this purpose, an Adult Evening School has been established in Toronto, the attendance at which has been very gratifying. The advent amongst us of the Rev. S. R. Ward, who had for several years laboured faithfully on their behalf in the United States, has also enabled the Committee to do something for the moral and religious elevation of this proscribed class. Mr. Ward has been constantly employed since his arrival, in visiting the adjacent country districts and the cities around. His eloquence as a speaker, has rendered him very popular both in town and country, and has done much to weaken that vulgar prejudice which unhappily prevails too extensively even in Canada. Mr. Ward writes thus regarding his reception in the country:—

"I had good audiences in the towns and villages which I visited throughout the country. Anti-Slavery feeling is spreading and increasing. The public mind literally thirsts for the truth, and honest listeners, and anxious inquirers will travel many miles, crowd our country chapels, and remain for hours, eagerly and patiently seeking the light. Surely this betokens a better, brighter day a-head. Let the ignorance now prevalent on the subject of Slavery be met by fair and full discussion, and open and thorough investigation, and the apathy and prejudice now existing will soon disappear."†

The Committee have sought to ascertain as far as practicable the number, condition, and prospects of the coloured population of Canada

* Sir Charles Grey, Governor of Jamaica, as is stated in the Parliamentary Report for 1848, wrote to the British Minister:—"If the negro population are treated with thorough fairness and complete justice, they will make an admirable peasantry." * * *

"The negroes appear to me to be generally as free from rebellious tendencies, turbulent feelings, and malicious thoughts, as any race of labourers I ever saw or heard of. My impression is, indeed, that under a system of perfectly fair dealing, and of real justice, they will come to be an admirable peasantry and yeomanry; able-bodied, industrious and hard-working, frank and well disposed."

† We most cordially recommend Mr. Ward as being an able and most zealous agent in the great and good work he is engaged in; and wherever he may go to advocate it, we are sure that those hearing him will go away satisfied, and convinced that the cruel bondage of Slavery is degrading to humanity, and the foulest blot on the escutcheon of the much-vaunted glory of American freedom, equality and independence!—*Port Hope Watchman*, April 23rd.